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Sulla fina struttura dei corpi striati e dei talami ottici. Del Dott. V. MARCHI. *Revista speriment. di Freniatr. ecc.*, 1887, XII, p. 285.

The author here presents the results of several years' investigation on the structure of the corpora striata and the optic thalami. The entire investigation is based on Golgi's work. He finds the cells irregularly scattered through both ganglia. Those of Golgi's first type, or the so-called motor, are most abundant in the optic thalami, while those of the second type, or the sensory, are most abundant in the corpora striata. The fibres enter the cells of the first type only. It follows, therefore, that he considers the optic thalami as motor in function, and the corpora striata as sensory.

Ueber den Kernursprung des Augen-Facialis. VON E. MENDEL. *Neurologisches Centralblatt*, 1887, No. 23.

The author points out that in 90 per cent of the cases of apoplexia sanguinea the mouth-facialis is affected while the eye-facialis is not. That in bulbar paralysis the facial nucleus is found degenerated, and yet the eye-facialis is not affected. He removed in rabbits and guinea pigs, by modification of the method of v. Gudden, the muscles supplied by the eye-facialis on one side. As a result, the posterior part of the oculo-motor nucleus on the same side was found atrophic. The fibres from these cells to the facialis stem run apparently through the posterior longitudinal bundle. The pathological evidence, so far as it exists, favors the location of the eye-facialis in the homologous nucleus in man. It is another example of the central concentration of the nuclei of associated muscles.

Ueber den Ursprung und den centralen Verlauf des Acusticus. VON v. MONAKOW. *Correspondenzbl. f. Schweizer Aertzte*, 1887, No. 5.

The author made use of v. Gudden's method on cats. As a result of these experiments the probable track of the acusticus fibres from the periphery to the cortex is given as follows: Posterior root, superficial layers of the tuberculum acusticum, striae arcuatae acusticae, fibrae arcuatae crossing in the raphe, dorsal medullary substance of the superior olive, the inferior lemniscus, corpora geniculata interna, posterior bigemina and their arm, temporo-occipital lobe.

H. H. D.

III.—ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY.

- (1) *Der Traum als Naturnothwendigkeit erklärt.* VON W. ROBERT. Zweite Auflage. Hamburg, 1886. 53 pp.
- (2) *Das Leben im Traum.* Eine Studie, von Dr. PAUL SCHWARTZ-KOPFF. Leipzig, 1887. 102 pp.
- (3) *Schlaf und Traum.* Eine populär wissenschaftliche Darstellung, von Dr. FRIEDRICH SCHOLZ. Leipzig, 1887. 70 pp.

(1) Different students, such as Strümpel and Hildebrandt, have noted that the materials of which dream images are made have come either by suggestion of trivial experiences of recent waking life, or are such stimuli incorporated, with little or much modification,

into the dream drama. Robert seeks to make this fact the key to all dreaming, and to explain the phenomena as a necessity for rational psychic life. Whenever we receive an impression we tend to act upon it, to elaborate it as it were, and to appropriate the useful by storing it away in memory. We receive many impressions, some of them of interest, but which we have not time to attend to while we are busied with the daily duties. At night these impressions, thus temporarily set aside, come up, pressing their claims upon us when we have leisure to attend to them. Most of these impressions, together with refuse of ideas digested during the day that lies like chips in our mental workshop, are swept out, chiefly during the early part of sleep. But morning dreams are more elaborate. These work up undigested material which is of use to the psychic economy. In this way does the brain solve our problems for us during sleep. Insanity is simply an overwhelming flood of unarranged ideas, and hence the value of sleep as a restorative to sanity. Robert thinks all attempts to classify dreams are futile. He illustrates his theory by relating and explaining various dreams; also notes dreaming of disease and of drugs.

(2) Our second author emphasizes the idea that we have psychic activity in sleep to such an extent as to make dreams the real life of the soul. In dreams we lose nothing of our character, not one jot of mental power. The flighty, illogical, magical, disconnected and incomplete nature of dreams is due to the fact that a stable world with its continuous stimuli has been shut out from us by the closure of our senses, and the stimuli we do receive come at intervals and in a sudden way, startling us and exciting our emotional nature. The mind, as Lotze says, of its own power creates images when the sign of the stimulus presents itself, and this is in fact the sensation itself. In dreams the mind likewise can create sensations just as real as in waking life, and that whether there be external stimuli or no. Even in waking life we have power to withdraw our attention from external stimuli and in abstraction live. A sensation, a perception or apperception, a representation (memory, fancy, imagination), an hallucination, all are one simple act of mind, but differing in intensity and concomitants; and all these modes we can exercise whether awake or asleep. In waking life we do not recall dreams to any great extent, but likewise in sleep we have forgotten the objective world and our past experiences. All the different gradations of activity felt in dreaming may be experienced while awake. It is all a mental creation like unto that exercised by poets and dramatists. The laws of association obtain in a similar manner in both states of life. Dreaming is a purer activity of mind, and shows its best fruits in the visions of seers and prophets.

(3) Dr. Scholz has given us a very readable brochure covering the entire subject of sleep and dreaming, with a third section on sleeplessness, its causes, and a general consideration of the hygiene of sleep. The standpoint is that of modern physiology; the figure, that of ebb and flow of the tide. In sleep the cerebral activity is at a minimum. Pflüger's theory of sleep, elaborated by Preyer, is adopted as the best theory, though it must be confessed that it does not offer a complete explanation. All activity of protoplasm is accompanied by oxidation—the breaking down of complex molecules that have previously been built up in connection with absorption of oxygen. This absorbed or intramolecular oxygen is, as it were, a granary that furnishes force for the activity of the cell. But when

the cell is active it uses up oxygen faster than it receives it (katabolism overbalances anabolism), hence must come a period of rest from activity where anabolism has the upper hand. During the katabolic process the products of decomposition gather in the cell and clog its activities. Then the cell desires sleep. When the refuse has been cleared away and the waste made good by synthetic processes, the cell once more is ready for work, its protoplasm is irritable and explodes at the first stimulus, the cell awakes. When we transfer this picture to the cells constituting the higher psychic ganglia, and hold that mental activity is accompanied by and dependent on cerebral cell activity, we have a good explanation of the cause and phenomena of sleep. The author then explains the laws of sleep by application of the above hypothesis.

In considering dreams, Radestock is principally followed. The controlling centre being asleep, the lower centres are free to act as they have a chance, and are stimulated to activity either by impressions of the senses, or from the abnormal processes in the body, or lastly, by the spontaneous play of the least tired cerebral cells themselves, recalling memories that have not been in the mind for some time. Much comes from the vast region of the unconscious. In the elaboration of dream images, the laws of association will of course find free play. The attention not being fixed is freer to respond to faint impressions, hence incipient disease in the body is able to arouse prophetic dreams.

No attempt can be made to give a complete abstract of a paper like this, which is itself an abstract well worth reading. J. NELSON.

Zur Pathologie des Gedächtnisses. Von Dr. A. PICK. Arch. f. Psychiatrie, 1886, p. 83.

While partial amnesia, especially in the field of speech, has been carefully studied of late, comparatively little has been added during the last ten years to our knowledge of general amnesia, and the cases that have been studied with detail are mostly progressive and not regressive cases. A married woman of 27 as a sequel of peritonitis quite lost memory of her own name and age, marriage, child, etc. When she came to the asylum at Dobzean, of which the author is the director, she was unable to remember whether she had taken her meals, the day of the week, the year, whether she had ever seen the doctor, etc. Gradually, however, the details of her past life were recalled, recent and remote events revived, and at the end of three months her memory seemed quite normal. Optical memory images seemed most completely extinguished, so that the case may illustrate asymbolism in the changed sense that Wernicke gave to the term as originally suggested by Finkelnburg. In the case of patients who confuse persons and objects, get lost in well known streets, chew coal, exchange ingredients in cooking, loss of memory images is probably the real cause of what is often diagnosed as delusions. In this case the tests by questions, pictures, etc., were very numerous, and the law that the most familiar concepts of daily life were first regained was strikingly illustrated, thus affording the often desiderated complement to the frequent observation that these concepts were the last to be lost in regenerative cases. Koempfen's law that loss of memory proceeds backward in time from the trauma toward childhood, and return of memory is from the remoter past to the present, is also in general well confirmed in this case. But